

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5607

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2848

USIAC

FOR: USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA, STATE FOR ARA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

TODAY'S DAILY GLEANER COMMENTED ON MRS. CARTER'S VISIT
IN LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "MRS. CARTER'S LATIN TOUR."
FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: AS A NATION WITH A TOURIST TRADITION, JAMAICA
IS ACCUSTOMED TO WELCOMING THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE POWERFUL,
THE MIGHTY AND THE EVERYDAY CITIZEN FROM MANY LANDS.
HOWEVER, THE VISIT OF MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER WAS AN EVENT
OF A SPECIAL SORT FOR THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE, AND REPRESENTS
A GESTURE WHICH THEY DEEPLY WELCOME.

IT IS NOT YET SIX MONTHS SINCE MR. JIMMY CARTER TOOK
OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ALREADY IT IS CLEAR
THAT HIS STYLE OF LEADERSHIP IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT
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FROM HIS PREDECESSORS. HIS GESTURE OF SENDING HIS
ATTRACTIVE WIFE ON A WHIRLWIND VISIT TO KEY CAPITALS
OF LATIN AMERICA MUST BE SEEN AS A PART OF HIS STYLE.
LATIN AMERICA REPRESENTS AN AREA OF TREMENDOUS MISGIVINGS
AND CONTROVERSY IN AMERICAN POLITICS. AMERICAN
POLITICIANS SUCH AS PRESIDENTS KENNEDY, JOHNSON, NIXON
AND VICE-PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER HAVE RECEIVED VERY MIXED

RECEPTIONS ON THEIR TOURS OF LATIN AMERICA IN THE PAST. THE FACT IS THAT EACH NEW ADMINISTRATION ON TAKING OFFICE HAS GIVEN LIP SERVICE TO THE IDEAL OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, AN IDEAL WHICH HAS UNFORTUNATELY RARELY BORNE FRUIT. THIS IS A TYPICAL CARTER MOVE THEREFORE; INSTEAD OF SENDING A HIGH LEVEL TEAM OF TECHNOCRATS AND OFFICIALS, HE HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT ROUTE. HE HAS SENT, AS IT WERE, A MESSAGE FROM HIS HEART RATHER THAN FROM HIS HEAD.

THE PIINT IS CERTAIN TO BE VERY WELL TAKEN, AND WHEREAS ANY OFFICIAL UNITED STATES TOUR INEVITABLY RECEIVES ITS SHARE OF BRICKBATS AND RIOTS, MRS. CARTER IS ASSURED OF RECEIVING A WARM WELCOME, AND THE OPPORTUNITY OF ASSESSING AT FIRST HAND THE CHARACTER, QUALITY AND PERSONALITY OF THE PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS OF THE STATES WHICH SHE VISITS. THE AMERICAN MEDIA HAVE STATED THAT MRS. CARTER IS A POLITICAL PRO AND HER HUSBAND LAYS GREAT STORE BY HER ASSESSMENT. THAT HER PERSONALITY IS DISARMINGLY SOFT AND UNCOMPLICATED MIGHT LEAD THE OBSERVER TO AN OPPOSITE CONCLUSION, AND PERHAPS THIS IS ONE OF HER STRONGEST ASSETS. JAMAICA WAS THE FIRST STOP ON HER TOUR AND, WHILE THE GEOGRAPHY MIGHT HAVE DICTATED THIS, IT IS LIKELY THAT IT WAS ALSO INTENDED AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE TO SHOW THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IS STRETCHING FORWARD THE HAND OF GOODWILL IN NO UNCERTAIN MANNER.

WE ARE SORRY THAT MRS. CARTER'S VISIT WAS MARRED BY FLOOD RAINS WHICH FOCUSED NATIONAL ATTENTION ON OTHER MATTERS
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DURING HER STOP-OVER, AND ALSO PREVENTED HER FROM KEEPING A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENTS AND SEEING THE COUNTRY IN THE FULL GLARE OF ITS SUNLIT BEAUTY. WE HOPE THAT SHE WILL COME AGAIN WHEN THE PORTENTS OF THE WEATHER ARE MORE OPPORTUNE, AND THAT SHE WILL TAKE TO HER HUSBAND AND HER NATION THE GOOD WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA AND OUR HOPES FOR A WARMER, MORE BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US IN THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE

IN A PAGE TWO STORY THE GLEANER NOTED THAT RAIN PREVENTED MRS. CARTER FROM VISITING SUGARCANE COOPERATIVE AND SUMMARIZED VISITS TO URGAN RENEWAL SITE.

TODAY'S JAMAICA DAILY NEWS PUBLISHED FEATURE ON MRS. CARTER ON WOMEN'S PAGE UNDER SIX COLUMN LEADLINE BY BARBARA NELSON ENTITLED, "ROSALYNN CARTER WAS HERE;"

EXCERPTS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: ...AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY RECEPTION, WHERE I FIRST SAW HER I WAS SURPRISED AT HER GUIRLISH APPEARANCE, SHE DOES NOT LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE "GROWN MEN AS SONS". HER SKIN IS FLAWLESS AND SMOOTH, HER FIGURE SLENDER. SHE WAS WEARNING A LEAF-GREEN DRESS AT THAT TIME AND THAT ADDED TO THE FRESHNESS OF HER APPEARANCE. AT JAMAICA HOUSE ON MONDAY NIGHT, SHE LOOKED TINY AND FRAGILE SITTING BESIDE A VERY SUAVE PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. SHE WAS WEARING WHITE WITH A CORSAGE AND THOUGH SHE APPEARED A LITTLE NERVOUS AT TIMES, SHE SMILED EASILY AND SEEMED TO ENJOY THE JAMAICA FOLK SINGERS...

...BUT IT WAS ON TUESDAY MORNING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT I APPRECIATED MRS. CARTER'S FEMININE ATTRIBUTES. THERE SHE SAT ON THE PLATFORM WITH A HOST OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS READY TO BOMBARD HER WITH QUESTIONS, TELEVISION CAMERA LIGHTS BLAZING, A SEA OF UNFAMILIAR FACES BELOW
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HER .. AND SHE SMILED.

ROSALYNN CARTER WAS REAY FOR THE QUESTIONS, BUT TO ONE OVER-ANXIOUS JOURNALIST SHE SAID, "I HAVE SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY".

UNSOPHISTICATED BUT NOT SHY, SHE SAID HOW HAPPY SHE WAS TO BE IN JAMAICA AND COMMENTED ON HER "SEFEN HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY"....

...IT WAS AS IF THE FOREIGN PRESS HAD CUBA ON THEIR MINDS; SO MANY QUESTIONS REFERRED TO JAMAICA AND CUBA, THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA, CUBA IN AFRICA, STUMBLING BLOCKS TO US-CUBA RELATIONS ANA DO ON. "CUBA DID NOT DOMINATE OUR CONVERSATION" SHE SAID. THE IT CAME, "CONSIDERING THAT JAMAICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT ROCKY OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME TO THE ISLAND, WHY DID YOU NOT VISIT ONE OF THE OTHER ISLANDS?" AND MRS. CARTER SMILED AGAIN, VERY GENTLY THIS TIME. SHE EXPLAINED RATHER IN THE TONE OF A MOTHER SPEAKING TO A BELLIGERENT CHILD...SHE "CAME TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE PROBLEMS" IN THE ISLAND...

...MRS. CARTER MADE IT PLAIN THAT SHE HAD MADE NO COMMITMENTS ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND OR THE UNITED STATES AND IN REPLY TO ONE PERSON WHO ASKED WHETHER ANY AGREEMENT ON A LOAN HAD BEEN REACHED, SHE REPLIED, "HE DID NOT ASK ME FOR ANYTHING."

TIME FOR ONE MORE QUESTION AND THEN SHE WAS OFF, SURROUNDED

BY A BATTERY OF SECURITY MEN, STILL SMILING IN HER
SLIGHTLY SHY WAY.

"I THINK MRS. CARTER IS JUST RIGHT" ONE JOURNALIST SAID.
"SHE LOOKS SIMPLE BUT SHE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON.
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SHE IS SO OPEN AND DIRECT", ANOTHER SAID.
"I LIKE HER, I REALLY DO", ADDED A THIRD"
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